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4th May, 1960

COCOM Document No. 3976 B

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ST/D

ON

AN ITALIAN PROPOSAL TO EXPORT COMMUNICATIONS CABLE

TO THE SOVIET UNION

25th April, 1960

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM 3951 and 3952.

1. The CHAIRMAN invited delegates to make known their Governments' views on the proposal which the Italian Delegation had submitted in COCOM 3951 and had presented to the Committee on the 7th April (see COCOM 3952).
2. The UNITED STATES Delegate stated that the competent United States authorities had given careful study to the Italian request and as a result had decided to raise no objection. The Delegate informed the Committee that his Delegation had put a number of questions to the Italian Delegation after the discussion on the 7th April. These questions, together with the replies received, would shortly be issued in a separate document, which would also give the reasons which had determined the United States position. The Delegate concluded by thanking the Italian Delegation for their courtesy in responding to his authorities' request for additional information.
3. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate stated that the United Kingdom authorities raised no objection to the Italian proposal.
4. The FRENCH Delegate stated that the competent French departments had studied the Italian request with the closest attention. They had found that the cables were homogeneous star quad cables which, according to views expressed by United States experts in earlier cases, could be used for long-range carrier-frequency links. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that their kilometer capacity was higher than that provided for by the I.C.T.T. for 1.2 mm. conductor cable (which was 25.6 Nf to the kilometer) and of the relatively short length of each type of cable, it was highly probable that these would be used as outgoing trunk lines and not as long-range cables. The French Delegate stated that in these circumstances the French authorities raised no objection to the export of these cables to the Soviet Union.
5. The GERMAN Delegate stated that his Government raised no objection to the Italian proposal and hoped that similar requests which might be submitted in future would also be received favourably.
6. The NETHERLANDS Delegate stated that after careful study of the Italian request, the Netherlands authorities had reached the conclusion that the cables concerned would be used for short-range links and consequently they had no objection to their export.

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7. The BELGIAN Delegate stated that the Belgian authorities had no objection to this export.

8. The CANADIAN Delegate stated that he had been instructed to reserve the Canadian authorities' position on this proposal. Nevertheless, as the majority of the Committee had expressed favourable views regarding this export, the Delegate stated that he could give his Government's agreement ad referendum.

9. The JAPANESE and TURKISH Delegates stated that their Governments raised no objection to the Italian proposal.

10. The ITALIAN Delegate expressed his thanks to all Delegations, especially the United States Delegation, who had devoted special attention to his Government's request. The Delegate explained that his Delegation had been in close contact with the United States Delegation about this matter, and were extremely pleased that these consultations had produced a satisfactory result. The Delegate stressed that the crux of the matter had been the need to avoid any possibility of the cables being used for long-range links; in this connexion the Italian Delegate stated that he would be keenly interested in reading the explanatory memorandum which the United States Delegation proposed to submit to the Committee. The Italian experts considered for their part that it was impossible to use these cables for frequencies other than voice frequencies, both on account of the effective capacitance of the cables and of the disequilibrium of the capacitances. Moreover, the fact that there was no reference in the Soviet specification to mutual inductances made it possible to manufacture these cables with a very small number of twist pitches compared to the number of quads. Even in the future, therefore, it would be impossible to use these cables as a frequency-carrier system. The Delegate concluded by expressing the hope that the Canadian Delegation would be able to make known their Government's final position within twenty-four hours.

11. The FRENCH Delegate thanked his Italian colleague for the explanations just given, which he would not fail to pass on to the competent French authorities. He reminded the Committee that in view of the way this Soviet order was divided up, and of the use to which it would be put, his Delegation had raised no objection to the Italian request. The information given at the present meeting as to the impossibility of using these cables as a frequency-carrier system had given all the more support to the French authorities' decision not to oppose this export.

12. On the 26th April, the CANADIAN Delegate informed the Italian Delegation and the Secretariat that his authorities could give their final agreement to the Italian request.

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